

23 February 2015

Appropriations Committee  
Connecticut General Assembly  
Hartford, CT

To the Appropriations Committee,

It is vital that the University of Connecticut not be subjected to the 3.9% budget cuts currently slated in Governor Malloy's budget plan. The effects on UConn would be devastating, with severe negative effects on student financial aid, the workforce and much-needed hiring and infrastructure programs. These cuts would further threaten extant academic departments and degree programs, many of which have already been very hard hit by the economic downturn.

UConn is a major public research university with a very high national and international reputation. In the US World and News Report, UConn ranks 19<sup>th</sup>. The proposed budget cuts would pull the university backwards – a disaster not only for UConn and Connecticut but also for public education generally in the United States. This cannot happen; UConn needs continued state investment.

UConn generates about \$3.4 billion in economic activity every year in Connecticut, including more than 24,000 jobs and over \$202 million in tax revenue [figures taken from the recent report from the Tripp Umbach national research and consulting firm].

The State of Connecticut's commitment to the STEM industry needs to be continued. UConn has a long-standing proven record of being at the cutting edge of new STEM research and initiatives – something that places the university at the forefront of state, national and international innovations in this area.

I urge you in the strongest possible terms to vote "no" on the proposed cuts to the University of Connecticut.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Robin Greeley", written in a cursive style.

Robin Greeley  
Associate Professor  
Department of Art & Art History  
University of Connecticut